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CARTER SEEKS TREATY DELAY; RECALLS ENVOY FROM SOVIET OVER MOSCOW'S AFGHAN ROLE

U.N. PLAN IS SHIFTED

Move in Council Likely —
Powell Cites Decisions
on Other Actions

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 — President Carter decided today to ask the Senate to delay consideration of the treaty limiting nuclear arms and he made other moves, including the recall of the American Ambassador from Moscow, in response to the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Administration officials, who disclosed the decision to delay action on the arms treaty, also said that the United States had dropped its plan to take the Afghan issue to the United Nations General Assembly and instead was backing a proposal by European and third-world nations to put the matter before the Security Council, where it faces a certain Soviet veto.

The Security Council is expected to hold an urgent meeting, possibly as early as Friday, to consider a demand for the withdrawal of Soviet troops. A draft letter calling for the meeting was expected to be signed by at least 20 nations, including Moslem and other third-world countries as well as Western Europeans. [Page A12.]

Diplomatic Rejoinder to Moscow

In a day of meetings at the White House with his key foreign policy and military advisers, Mr. Carter summoned home Ambassador Thomas J. Watson Jr. in a diplomatic rejoinder to Moscow and "made a number of decisions this afternoon on actions to be taken in response to the Soviet invasion," Jody Powell, the White House spokesman, said.

Earlier, Administration officials had said that the United States was seeking China's cooperation in bolstering Pakistan's defenses against Soviet military pressure. [Page A9.]

Mr. Powell said that the decisions made during the day "involved unilateral actions and actions to be taken in conjunction with other nations." He refused to be explicit on the moves, thus leaving a

mystery about what actually had been worked out at the National Security Council session and other less formal meetings during the day.

The decision to hold up the Senate debate on the arms treaty was made at the same time as the White House affirmed that Mr. Carter still supported its eventual passage.

Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said that he interpreted the President's action as meaning that he "does not intend to withdraw the treaty, but to leave it on the Senate calendar pending a more propitious time." The treaty's passage, however, had been in doubt even in a more favorable international atmosphere.

A White House official said that Mr. Carter remained convinced that the accord was in the American national interest and that it had not been signed by Mr. Carter just as "a favor to the Russians."

But he said that because of both the hostage crisis with Iran and the "recent developments in Afghanistan," the question of the timing of the Senate debate was now being discussed with the Senate leadership.

Not 'a Propitious Time'

White House officials were understood to be telling Senators by telephone this evening that the President did not consider this "a propitious time" to take up the treaty. The Senate had been scheduled to deal with the treaty as the first order of business when it returns from recess on Jan. 22.

But Senate leaders had told the White House privately that passage of the treaty was impossible in the current atmosphere, and Administration officials agreed.

Mr. Carter had the option of pulling back the accord or concurring in a delay and he chose to do the latter, thereby leaving open the possibility, however remote, that the agreement might be approved later in the year.

The recall of Mr. Watson, who has been the Ambassador in Moscow only since last fall, was officially described as a return "for consultations."

'Serious Threat to Peace' Cited

But White House officials stressed that the move was a diplomatic act of retaliation for the Soviet actions, which Mr. Powell called "a serious threat to peace posed by the invasion of Afghanistan by armed forces of the Soviet Union."

The recall of the former International Business Machines executive was unusual because in past crises with the Russians the American envoys have usually been instructed to remain at their post to provide their views of the situation from Moscow.

This is what occurred during the Soviet actions in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968. But Mr. Watson has no special background in Soviet affairs and no particular access to the Soviet leadership, State Department officials said.

George F. Kennan, a former Ambassador, said he could not remember any similar recall.

Mr. Carter also has under consideration some curbing of American trade with the Soviet Union, including some limits on Soviet imports of grain, but Administration officials said that no decisions were taken in the trade field today.

They added that it was likely that there would be some tightening in regulations on sale of oil technology to the Soviet Union.

Officials did rule out the possibility that the United States might intervene militarily as a response to the Soviet actions.

They also said that the possibility of efforts to boycott the summer Olympic Games in Moscow was not a priority matter. The issue was suggested by a senior West German diplomat but is not being considered actively, they said.

In the last few days, both Israel and Egypt have issued statements offering the United States the use of their military facilities to heighten American power in the region.

Until now, the Carter Administration has politely ignored those offers, but today Hodding Carter 3d, the State Department spokesman, said that the proposals were being considered in connection with the current study on increasing the American military presence in the area.

State Department officials acknowledged that this amounted to a change in approach, but they said this did not mean the offers would be accepted.

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Izvestia Article Denounced

Hodding Carter also lashed out at the Soviet Union over an article that appeared in the Soviet Government newspaper, Izvestia, yesterday, charging that the Central Intelligence Agency had attempted to turn Afghanistan into an American base.

The State Department spokesman said that the "allegations are so ridiculous that it is an affront to the intelligence of people."

"The accusations are a crude ruse to cover up Soviet imperialism, to disguise the reality of Soviet intervention," he said. He also remarked that the Afghan insurgents were independent and had not been helped by outside powers, as alleged by the Soviet Union.

Other officials said that the only assistance provided to the Afghan insurgents who are in revolt against the Kabul Government had been small arms smuggled to them from Pakistanis of the same Pathan ethnic group, who were in constant touch with them.

The Pakistanis obtained the arms from the Pakistani Government but there is no evidence, they said, that the Government in Islamabad was behind the assistance.

Dobrynin in Moscow for a Month

The decision to recall Mr. Watson comes at a time when the Soviet Ambassador to Washington, Anatoly F. Dobrynin, has been in Moscow for nearly a month. State Department officials said they believed that he had been recalled for a review of relations with the United States, in advance of the action in Afghanistan.

Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, who briefed other officials on the diplomatic developments, had planned to seek action in the United Nations General Assembly condemning the intervention in Afghanistan.